

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A kit for diagnosing a condition of early  
vascular dysfunction and/or vascular disease, said kit  
5 comprising means for testing the presence and/or the  
concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or antibodies to an  
antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF in a sample of  
body fluid of a patient to be tested for early vascular  
dysfunction and/or vascular disease; and means for determining  
10 from the assayed concentration of either or both of said  
antibodies whether or not the patient is at risk for having  
cardiovascular disease and/or early atherosclerosis.

2. A kit for diagnosing early vascular dysfunction  
and/or vascular disease that utilizes several diagnostic  
15 indicators for said disease, wherein antibodies to PAF and/or  
antibodies to an antigen capable of binding to antibodies to  
PAF is one of them.

3. The kit of claim 1 for diagnosing of  
cardiovascular disease.

20 4. The kit of claim 3 wherein said diagnosing of a  
cardiovascular disease comprises a diagnosis of early  
atherosclerosis, hypertension or thrombosis.

5. The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and /or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said  
5 antibodies by immunoassay.

6. The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the present and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said  
10 antibodies by an enzyme linked immunosorbent assay.

7. The kit of claim 1 wherein said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said  
15 antibodies by radioimmunoassay.

8. The kit of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is serum prepared from a blood sample.

9. The kit of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is plasma prepared from a blood sample.

20 10. The kit of claim 1 wherein said sample of body fluid is a human blood sample or fraction thereof, and said means for testing the presence and/or the concentration of

antibodies to PAF and/or of antibodies to an antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF comprises measuring either or both of said antibodies by immunoassay.

11. The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen  
5 capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is phosphocholine.

12. The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is phosphorylcholine.

13. The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is  
10 phosphatidylcholine.

14. The kit of claim 1, wherein said antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is lysophosphatidylcholine.

15. The kit of claim 2, wherein said antigen  
15 capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and lysophosphatidylcholine.

16. The kit of claim 5, wherein said antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is selected from the  
20 group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and lysophosphatidylcholine.

17. The kit of claim 6, wherein said antigen capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is selected from the group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorycholine, phosphatidylcholine and lysophosphatidylcholine.

5                    18. The kit of claim 7, wherein said antigen  
capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is selected from the  
group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorycholine,  
phosphatidylcholine and lysophosphatidylcholine.

19. The kit of claim 10, wherein said antigen  
10 capable of binding to antibodies to PAF is selected from the  
group consisting of phosphocoline, phosphorycholine,  
phosphatidylcholine and lysophosphatidylcholine.